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Agency Secretary
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Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

January 14, 2005

Ms. Robin Stankoff
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APPROVAL OF FINAL REMOVAL ACTION WORKPLAN (RAW) FOR INTERIM REMOVAL ACTIONS AT INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM (IRP) SITES 4 AND 6; AIR FORCE PLANT (AFP) 42, PALMDALE, CALIFORNIA

Dear Ms. Stankoff:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has reviewed the above-referenced document dated December 28, 2004, prepared by CH2M HILL on behalf of the Air Force. The RAW evaluates interim removal action alternatives and documents the proposed selected remedy of soil excavation at both IRP Site 4 (Vehicle Washrack and Leaking Underground Storage Tank) and Site 6 (Original Fire Training Circle). Contaminated soil will be excavated and transported offsite to an appropriate disposal facility and confirmation sampling will be collected to verify attainment of the target cleanup goals for the sites. The RAW also includes the workers health and safety plan during the removal action and the sites backfilling and restoration activities. In addition, the RAW presents the engineering assumptions and cost estimates, quality assurance project plan, and evaluation of Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) for the removal actions.

The RAW is considered an interim removal action because the removal action goals were developed to be protective of workers under the current and foreseeable use of the sites. Upon completion of field activities, if the sites are not suitable for unrestricted land use, institutional controls will be employed to ensure long-term effectiveness and to restrict Sites 4 and 6 to industrial use only. The Air Force will prepare a Feasibility Study/Remedial Action Plan to document the final remedy for the sites.

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A Fact Sheet, providing key information from the draft RAW including the notice of the public review period, was mailed on August 16, 2004. A public notice announcing the comment period was also published in the Antelope Valley Press on August 18, 2004. The 30-day comment period started on August 19, 2004 and ended on September 18, 2004. The Air Force received public comments on the draft RAW during the public meeting held on September 1, 2004. The responses to all comments received on the draft RAW are included in Appendix I of the final RAW.

DTSC is satisfied that its comments raised in the February 11, 2004 letter on the draft document have been adequately addressed and we hereby approve the final RAW.

We look forward to working with you to expedite the investigation and cleanup of the sites at AFP 42. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Tayseer Mahmoud, Senior Hazardous Substances Engineer, at (714) 484-5419.

Sincerely,



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